

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 MC-02 OMB-01

AF-10 EUR-25 AID-20 DRC-01 /179 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8313

INFO DOD WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI NIACT IMMEDIATE

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU, JAPAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15186

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR JA IS

SUBJ: "FAR EAST" CLAUSE AND POSSIBILITY AMMUNITION SHIPMENTS
TO ISRAEL

REF: TOKYO 14031

1. AT SECURITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING NOVEMBER 20,
DEPUTY VICE MINISTER TOGO SAID THAT FONOFF EXPECTS RECEIVE
DIET INTERPELLATION NOVEMBER 21 ON GOJ INTERPRETATION OF
U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY "FAR EAST" CLAUSE IN CONNECTION
WITH EARLIER ALLEGATIONS THAT US MIGHT BE SENDING AMMUNITION
FROM JAPANESE DEPOTS TO ISRAEL.

2. ACCORDING TO TOGO, FONOFF SPOKESMAN PLANS ANSWER
QUESTION OR SERIES OF QUESTIONS AS FOLLOWS: A) THERE
HAVE BEEN NO SUCH SHIPMENTS. B) GOJ CERTAIN THAT US WILL
ACT IN STRICT CONFORMITY WITH TREATY PROVISIONS. C) (IF
NECESSARY), GOJ WOULD INTERPRET TREATY ARTICLE VI AS NOT
AUTHORIZING REGULAR SUPPLY OF MATERIEL FROM FACILITIES
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AND AREAS IN JAPAN TO ISRAEL.

3. TOGO ELABORATED THAT PAR "C)" OF PLANNED REPLY WOULD NOT IMPLY THAT US PROHIBITED BY SOFA FROM WITHDRAWING MATERIEL FROM JAPAN, SENDING TO US, AND THEN ON TO ISRAEL. GOJ INTERPRETATION WOULD HOLD ONLY THAT REGULAR RPT REGULAR SUPPLY OF MATERIEL TO ISRAEL IS FORECLOSED BY SECURITY TREATY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE ARGUMENT THAT ANY RESPONSE SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND HOGEN STATEMENT (REFTEL) AND THAT NO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ENTERTAINED, AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL OKAWARA OBSERVED THAT QUESTIONS CANNOT BE DUCKED AS EASILY IN DIET AS IN PRESS CONFERENCE SUCH AS HOGEN'S AND THAT GOJ HAS DIFFICULTY IN LABELLING AS HYPOTHETICAL, QUESTION CALLING FOR GOJ LEGAL INTERPRETATION OF TREATY. TOGO EMPHASIZED THAT FONOFF IS AWARE OF SENSITIVITY OF ISSUES INVOLVED AND INTENDS TO RESPOND VERY CAUTIOUSLY TO ANY QUESTION, REPLYING FIRST WITH "A)", THEN "B)", AND "C)" ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY AND IF QUESTION CANNOT BE AVOIDED AS HYPOTHETICAL. TOGO ASKED FOR USG REACTION TO PLANNED REPLY. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, CHARGE UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE USG REACTION MORNING NOVEMBER 21.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WE CAN HAVE NO QUARREL WITH GOJ REPLIES A) AND B) AND THAT IT DIFFICULT FOR USG TO OBJECT TO PROPOSAL GOJ REPLY "C)" WITHOUT THROWING INTO SERIOUS QUESTION WHOLE CONCEPT OF GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATION AS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE VI OF TREATY. MOREOVER, EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT WE CANNOT PRESS GOJ ANY HARDER THAN WE HAVE TO COMMIT ITSELF TO AVOIDING QUESTION ALTOGEHTER. ONLY IF DEPARTMENT CONSIDERED THAT ANY GOJ REPLY ALONG LINES "C)" WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE OUR POSITION IN MIDEAST, DO WE FEEL WE WOULD HAVE ANY BASIS FOR RETURNING TO FONOFF WITH REACTION OF OTHER THAN ACQUIESCENCE IN GOJ PROPOSED REPLY. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT RESPONSE NLT OPENING OF BUSINESS NOVEMBER 21 TOKYO TIME.
SHOESMITH

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